THE EXAMINER.

No. 194 SUNDAY, SEPT. 15, 1811.

THE POLITICAL EXAMINER.

Party is the madness of many for the gain of a few. SWIFT.

No. 189.

PERPETUATION OF SINECURES BY THE PRINCE REGENT.

Among other Sinecures, the abolition of which has been earnestly desired by all considerate people and even recommended by a Committee of the House of Commons, is an office, place, situation, or whatever the definers of negatives may chuse to term it, called the *Paymastership of Widows' Pensions*. The emoluments are reckoned to be two thousand a year, although the Paymaster has not an atom of trouble in filling the office:—in fact, he does not pay at all; nay, it is probable that he never even sees or hears of the Pensioners; he has no more concern with them than with Dido or the Ephesian Matron; all that he has to mind is to be paid himself; and so little has *place* to do with what is generally attached to the signification of that word, that it is of no consequence whether he lives in Westminster, as he does at present, or at Gibraltar, as he did lately. To be Paymaster of Widows Pensions literally means therefore to be Chief Pensioner on the Widows' Fund. In all other senses of the phrase, he might as well be called Pinner of Widows' Caps, or Father of Widows' Children.

This office was left vacant the other day by the demise of General Fox, brother of the late leader of the Whigs; and many persons, I believe, were simple enough to look for the abolition above-mentioned. The Ministers, it was fancied, might chuse to facilitate it on one hand, in order to expose the obnoxious party who had possessed it; and on the other, it was conjectured that the patrons of that party might wish to shew their disinclination to maintain abuses, now that so fair an opportunity presented itself for discontinuing one of so gross a nature. But there are better ways for exposing an obnoxious party than by practises dangerous to the exposers; and the party themselves, it appears, are in no hurry to abound in the disinterested virtues of which they have so long been lamenting the want in their opponents. The place, it was soon understood, was not to be abolished:—the lucky star of election hovered, for some time, over different persons in the retinue of the Court; and at last, to the admiration of all beholders, settles on the radiant head of JOHN M'MAHON, Esq. Colonel in the Army and Private Secretary to his Royal Highness the PRINCE REGENT.

The appointment has naturally produced a ferment between the Whig and Ministerial Journals. The former, with great professions of respect for the Colonel, whom they represent as the "tried and faithful friend" of his Royal Highness, submit nevertheless that the PRINCE could not possibly have intended the place for him, but that the appointment must have originated in the malice and Jesuitical policy of the Ministers *: the others, with the same professions of respect, think it necessary to deny any such origination, and to insist that in rewarding his Secretary's services in this manner, the PRINCE acted entirely from his own feelings of propriety, without the least claim on the part of Ministers to any share in the merits of the proceeding. The Whigs say that this cannot be, because the PRINCE has always expressed his decided aversion to corruption of every kind; the Ministerialists answer, that they "have no doubt of his Royal Highness's hatred of corruption;"—that Mr. PERCEVAL and his friends have a dislike to it equally strong, but that the appointment, however people may chuse to represent it, still originated with the PRINCE. The Whigs rejoin, that Mr. PERCEVAL and his friends cannot have any such hatred of corruption, because they put one another in possession of the grossest sinecures, and it is on that account, that they must insist on regarding them as the authors of this appointment:—the Ministerialists reply, that because Mr. PERCEVAL rewards his friends with good places, it is certainly no just inference that the PRINCE cannot reward *his own* in like manner; and in fine, they conclude in the usual way,

* "It is a gross libel on his Royal Highness to impute this appointment to him; or to *insinuate* that he would reward the services of his friend, by *allowing* him to put his hand into the pockets of Officers' Widows, and take from them a portion of the modicum bestowed on them by the gratitude of the country. No, there must have been a mischievous design on the real Author of this appointment. By selecting the person nearest to the PRINCE's heart, upon whom to bestow a place that an honest Committee were of opinion ought to be abolished, they *insidiously* held out an assurance to the friends of corruption, that no regard was to be paid to any recommendation of reform." * * * * "As to the pitiful insinuations in the *Morning Post*, of our casting any reflection on Colonel M'MAHON's title to every favour from the PRINCE, whom he has so long and so faithfully served, they are undeserving of all notice. No man is better entitled, from talent, integrity, and zeal, to public employment, than Colonel M'MAHON, but it is not by putting his hand into the pocket of the widow that he ought, or that any man ought, to be rewarded. He cannot touch one shilling of this emolument without the galling reflection to himself, that the widow or orphan of some brave man must go without a meal in consequence of his *per centage*. The Property-tax takes two shillings out of every pound they ought to receive, and he is appointed to take a third; and the parasites of Ministers have the effrontery to say, that this was done by the recommendation of the PRINCE REGENT! It is a scandalous imputation on his honour, and totally inconsistent with the amiable principle by which he has governed his conduct, as the *locum tenens* of his beloved and afflicted father."—*Morning Chronicle*.

by asking the Whigs, how it is that the latter never make a noise about these matters when in power themselves? This settles the dispute, as usual, in the minds of those who look on; for such questions will always be unanswerable; and the Whigs do not seem to be aware, that they cannot take a surer method of raising their opponents into comparative estimation, than by making pretences, when out of power, to an official virtue, which the others consistently, though impudently enough, refuse to consider as a virtue at all.—What is the conclusion really produced in the public mind by this dispute about a sinecure? It is simply this;—that both Whigs and Ministerialists evidently regard the maintenance and bestowal of it in its present quarter as a measure likely to bring odium on the PRINCE; and that the former, in their anxiety to prove his dislike to the abuse, would make him out to be the weakest of mankind in suffering and sanctioning it. What? will the *Morning Chronicle* seriously pretend, that the PRINCE could not hinder his Secretary from accepting the place, if he would? And will it seriously infer, that if he could so hinder the acceptance, he is not quite as wrong,—if not more so,—in suffering it, than he would have been in originating it? The *Morning Chronicle* has no alternative;—either the PRINCE originated the appointment, and therefore, according to its own doctrine, must have acted most corruptly; or viewing the appointment in a corrupt light, he has suffered it to take place, and therefore has acted, if not still more corruptly, without doubt most weakly. That the services of Colonel M'MAHON should be recompensed by his Master, nobody will undertake to deny, though the public are still in ignorance of what those services may have been, and are by no means disposed to think extravagantly of them, if they are to be at all estimated by any relation with the PRINCE's past conduct. The last time they heard of that Gentleman, was on occasion of a most wretched speech which he made in the House of Commons, respecting an interview he had had with the Duke of YORK's Mistress: and as to any military claims he may have upon Government, it is not ascertained, I believe, whether the gallant Officer ever handled a naked sword. But whatever may have been his services, private or public, domestic or national, it is quite clear, that he has nothing to shew for his appointment to a military office, or to any public office whatsoever, much less to one that has been declared a gross sinecure, and recommended to abolition. The thing is as unappropriate to the servant's claims, as it is inconsistent with the Master's professions, and above all, as it is dangerous to that good opinion of their Prince, which it is of the last consequence in these momentous times to keep alive in the peoples' bosom. But whatever may still be hoped of his Royal Highness's goodness of disposition, and of his inclination to the liberal and popular side of thinking in politics, the time is past, I am afraid, for any further dependence on his natural or acquired sagacity; and, in a word, setting aside all that has been said on this subject, both for and against, the conclusion that the public mind will draw from the *fact itself* is the very same, I believe, which has been drawn for some time by every political observer, Whig, Pittite, and Reformist, and that is,—that the PRINCE is really a very weak man,—a truth, of which the nation has put off its conviction from year to year, from month to month, and from day to day, till the humiliating and afflicting secret is to be kept no longer.

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FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

FRANCE.

BAYONNE, AUG. 25.—For some time past there have been considerable movements among the troops stationed in the north of Spain, and of which the numbers have been augmented. A new army of reserve is forming in the northern provinces of Spain, and we are assured that it will march forward as soon as its organization shall be entirely compleated, and will shortly occupy Old Castile. A part of the army of the North has advanced into the provinces of Leon and Salamanca, and has pushed on to the frontiers of the northern part of Portugal. Its head-quarters are at Valladolid, but it is believed that they will speedily be transferred to Salamanca. The division of French troops forming part of the army of Portugal, under the orders of the Duke of Ragusa, which, after the departure of the latter for Estremadura, remained in the province of Salamanca, has also begun its march for the banks of the Guadiana, where it will rejoin the army to which it belongs.—We are assured that the garrison of Ciudad Rodrigo has received the same destination. All these troops have been replaced by a corps of the army of the North. It appears from the latest accounts from Estremadura, that hitherto nothing very important has occurred there. The French troops continue to occupy the positions which they took after the retreat of the English and the deliverance of Badajoz. They are masters of both banks of the Guadiana. The cantonments of the army are very extensive; a circumstance which prevents it from suffering much from the extraordinary heat of this summer, and occasions its having very few sick. At the same time we learn, that the positions of the English troops, and of the Portuguese and Spaniards with which they are combined, are very circumscribed, because the enemy's Generals expect every moment to be attacked by the French; and from this cause alone, epidemic diseases make great ravages among their troops. Lord Wellington must at last have formed a resolution to change the position of his army.—Andalusia continues to enjoy the greatest tranquillity. Public feeling is there very good; the agents of insurrection find, that it is not a soil at all favourable to them. The force employed in the siege of Cadiz has been lately augmented. That siege is about to be pushed with new vigour, from which the happiest results are expected. All accounts from Spain agree in announcing, that misunderstanding runs very high between the English and Spaniards at Cadiz, of which the English wish to take entire possession, under pretence that they have reason to fear lest that city should, otherwise, fall into the hands of the French. The bombardment of Cadiz has recommenced. The partial destruction of the bands of brigands is proceeding in all quarters with activity and success.

IRELAND.

GALWAY, SEPT. 4.—Two outrages were perpetrated in this town on Sunday night, as flagitious and inhuman as any that has fallen to our lot to notice. At a late hour that night, a gang of ruffians forcibly seiz d a woman in the green, whom they ill treated in a manner which we are unwilling to mention here; a Gentleman, who happened accidentally to have been passing at the moment, shocked at such a scene, having endeavoured to interfere, narrowly preserved his life by flight, after receiving a severe beating and some wounds. This occurrence, taking place as it did, in so public a part of a large populous town, is unquestionably reproachful and disgraceful in a great degree, and might not, perhaps, have occurred, had a centinel been at the time placed there, as had been heretofore usual. The enormity, however, of this transaction was exceeded on the same night, by one of a similar nature, but more deplorable in its effects: a young woman, far advanced in pregnancy, who had been returning home, as we are informed, in company with her husband, was stopped at Bohermore, and used in the same manner, but with so much brutal ferocity as actually occasioned the death of the unfortunate female in a day after! It is suspected, and very reasonably, that both were committed by the same villains. We understand that some persons, charged with having been concerned in the assault on the Gentleman already alluded to, have been committed to gaol, and that others who are suspected have fled.—(*Galway Chron.*)

KILDARE CATHOLIC MEETING.

The Catholics of Kildare, on the 31st ult. held a meeting in the Court-house of Naas.

DOMINICK WILLIAM O'REILLY was called to the Chair; when WOGAN BROWNE, Esq. addressed him in a speech of considerable length, in which he said: "Gentlemen, in the anxiety which I feel for the strict and legal propriety of the Roman Catholics of this county, you will, I am sure, perceive my real motive—the desire I have to prevent any of your enemies from being able to attach any blame to the conduct of men, who, in pursuing the objects which you have in view, are not merely securing themselves, but are essentially forwarding the real interest of every Protestant in Ireland; who are fixing upon their only true foundations the love and unanimity of the subject, the permanent stability of the Throne, and the grandeur of the Sovereign. Yes, Gentlemen, I am bold to declare it, with the Catholic cause is embarked all that is dear—all that is honourable—all that is safe to Ireland; with its success we shall rise, and with its reverse would be our downfall. What a picture does this country exhibit—how different from the state in which on my first being acquainted with it, is it now! To what cause ascribable? To the partial repeal of the Penal Code. See the Sons of Ireland now fighting the battles of their Sovereign, foremost to meet every danger! The number of Irish Officers in the Austrian Army, in the year 1774, amounted to *six hundred*, and at least as many more in the service of France and Spain. No such emigration now obtains; and the splendid achievements which mark the progress of our Army, where they meet the enemy's, are evident proofs of that which they *have lost*, and we *have gained*."

Lieutenant-Colonel FITZGERALD moved the resolutions, appointing a Committee to prepare a Petition for the total repeal of the Penal Laws, &c.

ROBERT LATOUCHE, Esq. M. P. for the county of Kildare, said, that he approved of every word in the Resolutions, and he was happy in having an opportunity of expressing his zealous wishes for the Catholic Cause. He always considered the claims of the Catholics to be founded in justice; as every class of persons in these realms had a right to enjoy all the privileges of the Constitution. The aggregate meetings throughout Ireland had been attended by Protestant Gentlemen of rank and fortune: he conceived, that in doing so they acted wisely, because it was their *duty*, as well as *interest*, *to manifest the utmost confidence in their Catholic Countrymen*. It would have the double effect of increasing the zeal of the Catholics to preserve the country against the common enemy; and of convincing the people of England, that the Protestant Gentlemen, who knew their Catholic Countrymen best, trusted them most.

Mr J. JOSEPH HENRY said, he felt great embarrassment in addressing the Meeting; but he thought he could not discharge his duty to his God and his country without saying a few words. He approved of mild and conciliatory language in the pursuit of the great object of their wishes; and he deplored that enthusiasm of the moment, which might be carried to any excess injurious to the cause: it might afford a handle to their enemies to misrepresent their intentions: it would place in the hands of their enemies a formidable weapon. A word had fallen from his most respected Friend (Mr. Wogan Browne), proceeding from a similar cause, which he could not avoid noticing. The Gentleman (Mr. Browne) was unwilling to use the word "concession;" but he (Mr. Henry) would ask, in the name of common sense, how they (the Catholics and Protestants) were otherwise to obtain the great object of their wishes, unless through the medium of conciliatory language? It would be quite improper to pass over such a phrase unnoticed: it would arm their enemies with weapons which could not be wrested from them. There was also another subject of regret. He alluded to the mention of the name of the man holding the highest situation in the county. If an error was committed, it was an error of the most innocent kind. It was the duty of the Magistrate to point out what he conceived to be the breach of the law. He (Mr. Henry) would not hold any man in estimation, who would not point out the error. He knew that man; , waving all personal feeling, he made the observation for the sake of their great and good cause.

Lord CLONCURRY.—Mr. Chairman, I did not come hither intending to take any share in your debate, nor am I a person who would countenance any improper proceedings. This Meeting was convened for the purpose of claiming those rights of which the Catholics have been deprived, and sorry I am to find, that one whom I and every person who knew him most highly esteem, has cavilled at the expression of my respected friend. I concur in his sentiment, and I say, *do not call it concession, but demand your right*. It may be said, would you use compulsion? I am not a man likely to be disposed to agitate the people. My stake in the country would prevent me from disturbing the peace of the country in which I am so deeply interested; but I will maintain, that a man demanding his right cannot be said to use compulsion. The Catholics had that right confirmed by the Treaty of Limerick. The Catholics of Ireland were robbed of their rights.—(*Loud applauses for several minutes.*) With the greatest humility, with modest respect, they have often approached the Legislature for a restoration of their rights. Their petitions were sometimes unheeded; sometimes they were listened to; sometimes they were rejected with the greatest indignity; and those privileges which they now possess were given rather through fear than a sense of justice.—(*Hear, hear!*) The expression of my friend is justifiable, when the insult which he sustained is considered. I know not Lord Manners—I do not wish to know him. I do not wish to know that man, one of whose first official actions was to remove from the Commission of the Peace, one of the most enlightened, most correct, and most respectable resident Magistrates in Ireland, to make room, I suppose, for that which he considered to be loyalty. True loyalty consists in an endeavour to defend the Throne, and to secure the rights of the people. I hope that my heart cannot be exceeded in that spirit of genuine loyalty. But what is now called loyalty is, the seeking after places to satiate their avarice,—the obtaining office to tyrannize over their fellow citizens,—that is, loyalty to pillage their neighbours!

The Resolutions were then put and carried unanimously.

PROVINCIAL INTELLIGENCE.

EXTRAORDINARY CASE.—Our readers will recollect that in our paper of the 18th July last, appeared a statement re-

specting a soldier of the First Somerset Militia, who had lain in a very surprizing state of insensibility from the 26th of April, in the present year, down to the period of our submitting the case to the public. We then described the various means resorted to for the purpose of ascertaining whether the illness was real, or only assumed, such as thrusting snuff up his nostrils—administering nitrous oxyd gas—electrical shocks—powerful medicines, &c. &c.—all of which proved utterly unavailing in the attempt to arouse him from the unaccountable torpor in which he had lain so long: nor, indeed, did any of these expedients produce in him the slightest symptoms of animation. We have now to add to these accounts a few facts, which for their singularity, may challenge competition with the most marvellous that ever reached the public notice. In acquiring the information we are about to detail, no pains have been spared to ascertain the various incidents of this extraordinary case with a degree of accuracy proportionate to the interest which it has already excited in this town and neighbourhood, and which will necessarily attend it wherever the circumstances are made known. A few days after our account appeared, *Phineas Adams*, the subject of this curious narrative, and whose age was no more than *eighteen*, on 6th of June last, was removed from the gaol, in which he then was, to the Parish of Bickenhall, a small village, seven miles from Taunton. His parents residing at that place, but being unable to receive him in their own habitation, Adams was lodged in the Poor-house—a small cottage adjoining the Churchyard. In this situation he continued to lay without exhibiting the least evidence of an improving condition. When any of his limbs were raised, they fell with the leaden weight of total inanimation; his eyes were closed, and his countenance evinced the paleness of death, though divested of any of the concomitant symptoms of approaching dissolution. His respiration continued free, and his pulse maintained its character of a healthful tone. The sustenance he received was entirely that of eggs diluted with wine, and occasionally with tea, which he sucked in through his teeth—all attempts forcible, as some of them were, to compel him to open his mouth having been repeatedly tried in vain; and various experiments were again made to excite sensation without effect, particularly that of thrusting pins under his finger nails.—In this hopeless condition he was visited by Mr. Welch, surgeon, of Taunton; who suggested the propriety of performing the operation of *scalping* the patient, with a view to ascertain whether the fall, to which the illness was attributed, might not have produced a depression of the brain. The proposal was communicated to the parents of Adams, who expressed their willingness that the experiment should be made. Accordingly, at the time appointed, the surgeon accompanied Adam's father to the bed-side of his son, and there, in the presence of several respectable persons, described to both the young man's parents the nature and precise course of operation about to be performed. Old Adams then shaved his son's head. The incisions were made—the scalp drawn up—and the head examined—during all which time the young man manifested no audible symptom of pain, or sensibility of suffering whatever, until the application of an instrument, with which the head was scraped in a particular part, and then, and once only, he uttered a groan. No beneficial result appearing from this experiment, and as his case seemed absolutely remediless, application was made to his regiment for his discharge. —On Tuesday the 20th, the discharge arrived, and was taken over to Bickenhall by the serjeant. On the Tuesday following (the 27th) old Adams brought his son down stairs in his arms; and on the 28th, he again brought him down, the son still remaining insensible. On the next night (the 29th) he was seen sitting in the Poor-house, with a gun in his hand, conversing with his father; and on Friday, the 30th, (our readers will participate with us in the complete astonishment excited by the fact), he was at Mr. Palmer's, a farmer, at Thurlbear, two miles from Bickenhall, cutting spars, carrying reed up a ladder, and assisting his father in thatching a rick!! On the next day (the 31st) he was in the barton of Mr. Cozens, of Bickenhall, with a pick in his hand, killing mice; and on Sunday the 1st inst. Mr. Cozens himself met him in a neighbouring rope gathering nuts!!—On the morning of Friday, the 30th, young Adams walked into the cottage of Martha Cozens, who lives next door and adjoining to the Poor-house. She expressed great surprise at the suddenness of his recovery, and asked him, how he was able to undergo so much suffering? To which he answered, that he had no recollection of having experienced any. She then asked him, if he did not recollect feeling any pain when the surgeon was scraping his head? To which he replied, "that he perfectly recollected that."—The extraordinary rapidity of this young man's recovery, after obtaining his discharge from his regiment, having excited, in combination with the other circumstances which we formerly stated, an opinion that imposition had been practised, some of the neighbours reported that a press-gang was coming for him. This, it is supposed, having reached his ears, he absconded; and not a syllable has been heard of him since.—Both Adams and his son have long been considered as notoriously bad characters in the parish where they reside. The old man was himself formerly in the military service, and effected his discharge by counterfeiting illness, though not of that description which has been assumed by his son. The opinion is very general, that he has assisted his son in his artifice, and that food has been secretly conveyed to him. Under this impression, however, it is necessary to state that the father was denied all access to him for several days while he was in gaol. When the degree of suffering, to which this young man has submitted in various forms, and the term of misery to which he has devoted himself (a period of between four and five months) are considered, it is hardly possible not to pronounce the present case as one which, for unsubdued resolution, craftiness of plan and perseverance of exertion, is beyond all parallel in the records of systematic villany. The incessant vigilance necessary to elude detection—the Spartan fortitude in suppressing the evidences of pain—the youth of the delinquent—the skilful arrangements connected with this infamous exploit,—when all these are taken into consideration, we are inclined to subscribe to the philosophy of those who assert the omnipotence of mind over the baser materials of our nature, and cease to wonder at the tortured Indian, who, in the ingeniously-protracted agonies of death, derides the savage triumph of his enemies.—To the Rev. Mr. Bower, the rector of Bickenhall, whose humane attentions to Adams were unwearied, displayed while he lay in the situation which appeared to require them, our best thanks are due for the polite assistance with which he has relieved a troublesome investigation into the circumstances of the case; and the Rev. Gentleman who officiates there as Curate, is also entitled to our acknowledgments for the solicitude he has manifested on the occasion. The ready interference of the Rev. Mr. Toogood, of Broadway, in facilitating the developement of the facts, likewise urges our sincerest expressions of thankfulness. Mr. Cozens and Mr. Burrows, of Bickenhall, have also been extremely obliging in elucidating the particulars of this unprecedented case.—*Taunton Courier.*

The commission of suicide, by youthful females, has of late become frequent in Lincolnshire; nor have the verdicts of the Coroner's inquests, directing an ignominious and barbarous interment in the public road, tended in the smallest degree to check the practice.—Another instance of self-destruction occurred last week at Market Deeping; Miss Jane Smith, aged 19, under the impulse of a disappointment of a tender nature, after failing in an attempt to drown herself, cut her throat in an out-house, and died a few hours after.—The Jury returned a verdict of *Lunacy*; but the Clergyman refused to permit the burial until he received a note from the Coroner on the subject.

An alarming and destructive fire broke out on Monday evening, in the rick yard of Mr. Coulton, a farmer, at Eastend, near Shottesbrook, Oxfordshire, occasioned by the descent of a fire balloon on a wheat rick; the balloon had been sent up in the neighbourhood of Marlow, nearly twenty miles from where it descended; the damage was very extensive, for besides the burning of four ricks, a barn, containing a full stawage of unthreshed corn, together with contiguous outhouses, fell a prey to the devouring element.

TUESDAY'S LONDON GAZETTE.

Admiralty Office, Sept. 10.

Copy of a Letter from Captain Ferris, of his Majesty's ship Diana, addressed to Rear Admiral Sir Thomas Williams, and transmitted by Admiral Sir Charles Cotton to John Wilson Croker, Esq.

SIR,—I have the honour to inform you, that while standing towards the Cordovan Light-house, in company with his Majesty's ship Semiramis, in the afternoon of the 24th instant, I discerned four sail inside of the shoals at the mouth of the river Gironde, under escort of a national brig of war. I meditated either their capture or destruction, which could only be accomplished by artifice and promptitude, without the sacrifice of many lives. Stratagem was used, which had the desired effect, as they sent a vessel with pilots to our assistance, and I anchored after dark the two ships midway between the Cordovan and Royan, under whose guns the brig had taken refuge, and close to the brig stationed for the protection of the several convoys passing either way. I dispatched three boats under the orders of Lieut. Sparrow (Second), Lieutenant Roper (Third), and Mr. Holmes, Master's Mate, from this ship, seconded by four boats under the orders of Lieutenants Gardner, Grace, and Nicholson, and Mr. Renean, Master's Mate, from the Semiramis, to capture or destroy the convoy then anchored up the river, about four miles distant, but the tide prevented their accomplishing it till late in the night, and at day-light, finding the captured vessels with the boats far up the river, beyond the two brigs, I determined to attack them with the ship, but not without using the same artifice as the preceding night to prevent suspicion; and so convinced were they of our being friends, that the Captain of the Port, Monsieur Michel Auguste Duhourg, Capitaine de Fregate, and commanding the in-shore brig, came on board to offer his services, and was not undeceived until he had ascended the quarter-deck. The Diana laid the outer brig on board, and Lieutenant R. W. Parsons (First Lieutenant), Lieut. Madden, First of the Royal Marines, and Mr. Mark G. Noble, Boatswain, headed about thirty seamen and marines, (as many as could be spared by the absence of the boats) and succeeded in gaining possession of his Majesty's late gun-brig Teazer, mounting twelve 18-pound carronades, and two long 18-pounder guns, commanded by Monsieur Alex. Papineau, Lieutenant de Vaisseau, with a complement of 85 men, and without loss on either side. It adds to the lustre these officers and men achieved, the humanity they displayed to the overpowered captives, in putting them below without force of arms, and unnecessary effusion of blood. It was at this time that alarm was given, and the batteries opened their fire upon our ships, when Captain Richardson in the Semiramis, in a manner which characterises the officer and seaman, pursued, drove on shore, and burnt, under the guns of the batteries, the French national brig Le Pluvier, mounting 16 guns and 136 men, whose Captain, I have before spoken of, was decoyed on board.

Having obtained to the utmost the object in view, I anchored in the Gironde, out of gun-shot, to repair the damages sustained by the different vessels, when I was rejoined by the boats and the captured convoy, a list of which I have the honour to enclose. The services I received from Capt. Richardson, the officers and ship's company of the Semiramis, merit my warmest acknowledgments, and I should be committing a great injustice to the officers and ship's company I command, were I not to speak in terms of the highest admiration for their steadiness and zeal throughout the whole affair. And could I add stronger encomiums to one more than another, it would be from the great assistance I received from Lieut. R. W. Parsons, and Mr. D. Reynes, the Master, whose unremitted attention in piloting the ship in the most intricate navigation greatly tended to insure the object of pursuit. I also enclose you a letter I received from Capt. C. Richardson, narrating his attack upon the brig, and inclosing a list of wounded in the affray; and I regret to add, that I lost one man overboard, after the brig was in our full possession.—I have the honour to be, &c.

W. FERRIS, Captain.

His Majesty's ship Semiramis, Rogan Roads, August 25, 1811.

SIR—I have the honour to report to you, that as soon as the Diana ran on board the enemy's outside brig, her consort, at anchor in-shore of her, immediately cut her cable and made sail for the beach near the battery of Royan, where she grounded. I followed in to five fathoms, anchoring with a spring—the broadside was brought to bear on the enemy's brig, and how guns on the battery, within grape-shot of both.

After engaging some time, I found the guns of the enemy's vessel almost silenced, and perceived the boats haul up to quit her.

At this time the barge, pinnace, and cutter rejoined me; I ordered Lieutenant Gardner with these boats immediately to board the enemy, which was gallantly effected after receiving his broadside. She proved to be the French National brig Pluvier, of 16 guns and 136 men, commanded, *pro tempore*, by Lieutenant Page de St. Wanst.

The prize being fast on shore, the ebb tide running most rapidly, and my own ship in only 20 feet water, I found it necessary to take the remainder of her people out and burn her, which, when completely effected, I made all sail to join you.

I have but to add, in this little affair my officers and ship's company behaved entirely to my satisfaction; and I feel much indebted to my First Lieutenant Gardner, Second Lieutenant Grace, and Mr. Renean, Master's Mate, commanding the boats, for the handsome manner in which they ran alongside the enemy.

Lieutenant Taylor, of the Marines, and Mr. Brickwood, Purser, being the only officers on board, were of the greatest use, the former commanding the main-deck, the latter the quarter deck guns.—I have the honour to be, &c.

C. RICHARDSON, Captain.

List of Wounded.

Mr. Thomas Gardner, Lieutenant.—Robert Annesley, Captain's Coxswain.—Archibald M'Erving, ordinary seaman.

A list of vessels captured and destroyed.

French National brig Le Pluvier, of 16 guns and 136 men, from Bourdeaux; burnt.

French National brig Le Tenzer, of 14 guns and 85 men, from Rochfort with convoy; taken.

French galliot transport Le Matet, of 8 swivels and 42 men, from Rochfort bound to Bourdeaux, laden with ship timber; taken.

French chasse maree La Jeune Emelie, of 3 men, from Blygh, bound to L'Orient, laden with rosin; taken.

French sloop Fille Unique, of 3 men, from Bourdeaux bound to Rochelle, laden with wood and tiles; taken.

French vessel La Generosite, of 5 men, from Rochfort bound to Bourdeaux, laden with wine and soap; taken.

French sloop Marie Anne, of 4 men, from Le Bourne bound to Oleron, in ballast; taken.

N. B. The Marie Anne has on board the cargoes of La Jeune Emelie and La Generosite.

BANKRUPTCIES ENLARGED.

J. Lloyd, Woolwich, cheesemonger, from Sept. 24 to Oct. 5.
J. Greaves, Walworth, insurance-broker, from September 14 to Oct. 22.

BANKRUPTS.

J. Hamilton, Broad-street, merchant.
W. Rowland, Steyning, fell-monger.
J. Naylor, Aberford, Yorkshire, flax-spinner.
J. Keely, Nottingham, dyer.
J. T. Evert, Denzell-street, Clare-market, jeweller.
W. May, sen. Deptford, timber-merchant.

SATURDAY'S LONDON GAZETTE.

Admiralty-Office, Sept. 14, 1811.

Copy of a Letter from the Honourable Captain Percy, of His Majesty's Ship Hotspur, addressed to Captain Malcolm, of the Royal Oak, and transmitted by Admiral Sir Roger Curtis to John Wilson Croker, Esq.